GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

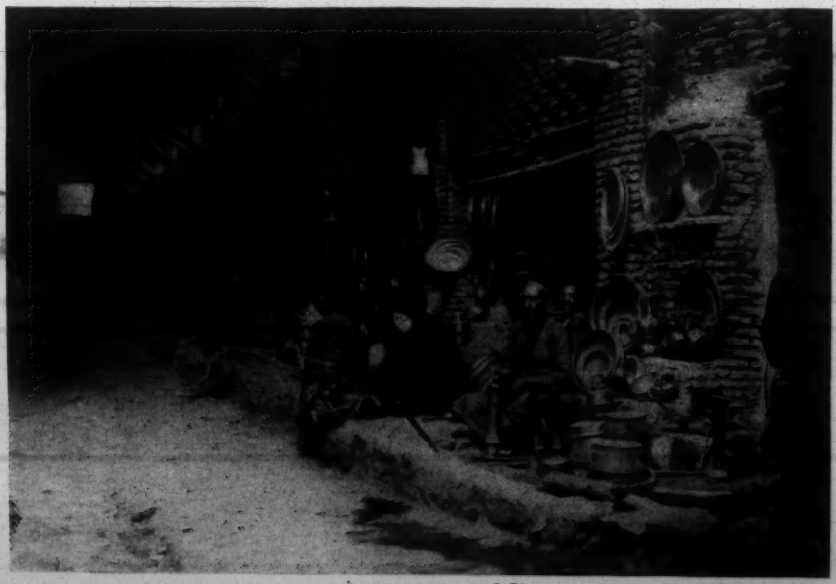
THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Contents for Week of October 27, 1930. Vol. IX. No. 15.

1. Ilheos, the Home of the Chocolate Bar.
2. Tariffs Through the Centuries.
3. Turks Fight Where Noah Landed the Ark.
4. Rich Assassin Rules A Million Subjects.
5. St. Kilda Island Abandoned by Its Inhabitants.



© *Photograph by Lt. Col. Alfred Heinicke*

IN DIM PERSIAN BAZAARS BOTH POTS AND PLOTS ARE FASHIONED

(See Bulletin No. 4)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Ilhéos, the Home of the Chocolate Bar

"PALM-FRINGED Ilhéos is the home of the chocolate bar," writes Frederick Simpich, leader of a National Geographic Society aerial photographic survey which dropped down from the West Indies-Rio-Buenos Aires skyways into the little Brazilian port.

"Ilhéos lives on chocolate beans, or cacao," he continues. "One-seventh of the world's crop moves from here, and five men manage the giant industry.

"Riding in a gasoline speed car, with the railway manager, we rattled out over the 50-mile toy line which wanders into the jungle.

Crocodiles Like Dogs Best

"From the forest whizzed a stinging bug and bit our driver on the nose. 'If we weren't here, he would probably take a crocodile tooth from his pocket and rub his nose with it,' said our host. 'That is the popular cure here for snake bites and other poisons.' We passed a new-made grave, with flowers on it. A man killed by a crocodile had just been buried.

"Dogs are the crocodiles' favorite dish. When a village dog ventures near the river bank at night and barks, the crocodiles gather.

"In the state of Bahia are about 80,000,000 cacao trees; this fruit has been grown here for about 150 years, and the tiny railway serves the heart of the great cacao region. It hauls more tons of freight per mile than any other line in South America.

Native Workers "Dance the Cacao"

"Leaving the coastal plain and entering the foothills, one sees the cacao plantations. We walked in the shaded groves. Among bigger, protecting trees the small cacao trees are planted, thus sheltered from sun and wind. I twisted off a green fruit, broke it open and tasted the whitish seeds; the flavor was like watermelon. Barefoot men and women split the pods, empty the seeds on a wide platform, and tread them free of pulp and pith. They call this 'Dancing the Cacao.'

"The seeds are dried by stirring them in a big flat bin. A wide roof, set on wheels, is at hand, to be hastily hauled over the bin if it rains. Turning a dark brown when dried, and tasting plainly of unsweetened chocolate when ripe, the beans are packed in bags and sent to Europe and the United States. In thirty years Bahia's export has risen from 150,000 to 1,200,000 bags a year. Brazil herself drinks very little chocolate—but much coffee.

Where Bugs Are Larger Than Birds

"Near a station named 'Lava Pes,' or 'Wash Your Feet,' we stopped to watch a long file of umbrella ants. Each carried a leaf as if it were an umbrella. Many ants were up in a tree, biting off bits of leaf and dropping them to other ants waiting on the ground. This line of marching ants is often a mile or more long. The ants carry the leaves to their underground home and store them. On the leaves a fungus forms, and this the insects eat.

"Under a shed nearby we saw four men, with machetes, scraping a wild pig they had shot.

"Farther up the line we crossed a small stream running among cacao-covered

© Photo from Russell Hastings Millward

CHOCOLATE BARS ON THE TREE

Cacao beans, from whose seeds chocolate is made, grow directly from the trunks of the cacao trees. Cacao was appreciated by the Mexicans long before the discovery of America. Prescott writes that the Emperor Montezuma was "exceedingly fond of it, . . . no less than 50 pitchers being prepared for his own daily consumption; 2,000 more were allowed for that of his household" (See Bulletin No. 1).

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Tariffs Through the Centuries

TARIFFS are one of the chief subjects before the Imperial conference in London where the prime ministers of the British dominions have gathered around the council table.

Some dominion representatives want to extend preferential tariffs within the British Empire; for example, if goods or products come to Canada from South Africa or Australia, duties on the shipments will be lower than for similar shipments from the United States or France or any other country outside the Empire.

No one knows when or where the first tariff was imposed or the first customs duties collected. The collection of a toll or duty from goods brought into a city or a country became important with the development of trade. Although Babylon, one of the earliest civilizations of which we have a record, had a highly organized social system with a minute code of laws relating to deeds, leases, mortgages, taxation, and the like, it is not known what part customs played in the affairs of the government. A country's revenue in those days was derived chiefly from a tithe (tenth) of the livestock and crops of its citizens.

Rome and Greece Taxed Both Exports and Imports

When Greece held the most important place in the world, duties on commodities moving in trade had come to be an accepted tax. Export prohibitions had also come into use, chiefly as defense measures in time of war or as protective means to prepare against war. Thus at times wheat could not be exported from Attica, and Greek ships that brought wheat from Black Sea ports for reëxport were compelled to leave one-third their cargoes in Greece. Another feature of the Greek system was the establishment of foreign trading stations by certain cities which monopolized their trade. Both export and import duties were charged by Athens, and this taxation alike of outbound and inbound commerce was common among all the early tariff systems.

Rome had little commerce in its early days and allowed commodities to come and go freely. When expansion set in and trade grew, the government began to mold economic currents, often by direct methods. Some commercial rivals, such as Carthage and Corinth, were destroyed. Other conquered countries were divided into districts and customs houses were set up at the dividing lines. Both exports and imports were taxed.

Egyptian Rulers Charged All that the Traffic Would Bear

Rome's tariff system was probably closer to those in use today than any previous ones. The types of duties were the same that enter into current tariff discussions: specific and ad valorem. A specific duty is a charge per unit, as 20 cents for each yard or pound or dozen of the commodity taxed. An ad valorem duty is a percentage of the value of the commodity. In the early days of the Roman Empire the most common ad valorem rate was 5 per cent. Later it was raised to 12½ per cent.

Venice, the great trading republic of the Middle Ages, carried on the Roman tariff theories and went further. Her object was to obtain a monopoly in the

hills. Long chutes made of boards ran down the hillsides to the water's edge. Down these chutes natives were sliding fresh cacao beans, which emptied into waiting dugout canoes. Although cacao has been grown here for so long, the methods of harvesting it are still primitive, for labor is cheap.

"White men find life here hard, because of so many insects and malaria. Bugs are a plague. I saw a horned tumble-bug more than 7 inches long—larger than many kinds of birds. And there were snails that must have weighed half a pound, and there was the *fer de lance* and other bad snakes.

" 'For days I see only native workmen,' an English superintendent told me. 'The natives' language is quickly learned—they use only about 400 words, a blend of Portuguese, Indian, and African words imported by slaves.' "

Bulletin No. 1, October 27, 1930.

© Photograph from Faye Fisher

PERSIAN SCHOOL TEACHERS STILL USE A STICK

Schools such as these are scattered through the shopping districts of Persian cities. They resemble shops with one side all open to the street. The teacher sits at one end with a long stick which he uses on the boys if they stop studying aloud for a moment (See Bulletin No. 4).

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Turks Fight Where Noah Landed the Ark

MT. ARARAT, the peak on which Noah, according to the Bible, brought the Ark to rest, has recently been the scene of other events of world importance.

Exploding bombs dropped from airplanes have shattered the peaceful quiet of the neighborhood as Turkish troops and Turkish air forces clashed with rebellious Kurdish tribesmen near the Persian border.

Ararat, capped with eternal snow, has a certain austere beauty from a distance, but close inspection discloses little to endear it to a beholder as "the mother of the world," which is the Armenian name for the peak. Owing to its peculiarly porous structure the water from its melting snow is swallowed up and does not produce a rill or torrent to water the lower slopes and near-by plains. This is in striking contrast to other mountains of the general region.

Even the Birds Desert Arid Ararat

To-day the slopes of Ararat are arid. A certain amount of herbage exists during the rainy season up to an altitude of 12,500 feet. Between that point and the snow line at 14,300 feet the peak is bare. The total altitude of Greater Ararat is 16,760 feet, and that of Lesser Ararat, 11,680 feet. Sheep graze on the lower slopes during the moist season, but when the dry season sets in and the sun beats down glaringly, everything is parched and the mountain becomes uninhabitable. Even the birds leave.

Ararat is difficult to climb, and for ages the Armenians asserted that guardian spirits prevented any man from gaining its summit. When it was first scaled in 1829 by Parrot, the Armenians insisted that he was lying. A number of mountain climbers have since reached the top, and in 1850 a Russian engineer passed five days there making triangulation observations.

The mountain is volcanic and had an eruption of considerable magnitude in 1840 from an old crater on the side. The village of Arguri with 2,000 inhabitants, on the lowest slopes, was destroyed. The Armenians looked upon Arguri as "the oldest village in the world," asserting that it was founded when Noah planted a grapevine there. Vines did not find their first resting place overhospitable. In the vicinity of Ararat they must be buried each winter to protect them from the extreme cold.

Neighboring Nations Each Have Different Title for Mountain

The name Ararat, supposedly of Aramaean origin, means "supereminence." To the Armenians the mountain is Masis, meaning "sublime." The Turkish name is Agri-dagh, or "steep mountain." The Persians alone bear out the Hebraic and Christian tradition. To them the peak is Koh-i-Nuh, "Noah's Mount."

Armenians, Kurds, and Tartars live around Ararat. In the past the mountain was the center of a large Armenian population. Now most of the Armenians have been pushed beyond the Araxis River, about 15 miles north of Ararat, which marks the Russian boundary. The Kurds are scattered, but are in considerable concentration to the eastward across the Persian border.

Before 1878 Ararat was shared by Turkey and Persia, with the main peak, Greater Ararat, in Turkish territory; and the smaller eminence, Lesser Ararat, 6 miles to the southeast, marking the Persian-Turkish border. Then came a further southern advance of Russia that made the Ararat mountain mass a three-way

handling of eastern goods and to regulate by duties the trade with the west and north.

The Mameluke rulers of Egypt held a strategic position in regard to eastern trade during the Middle Ages, and put on as heavy duties as the traffic would bear. As a result of the tolls imposed by them and by tribal chiefs in Arabia, Indian goods increased 300 per cent in price between India and Europe. In the end the Mamelukes defeated their purpose. The Mongols, who gained control of an overland route farther north, charged lower duties, and the trade flowed over the new route. After Vasco da Gama found the ocean path to the east, both the Egyptian and the overland route gave way to the cheaper, duty-free water route.

About this time Marco Polo, traveling in China, found that duties were charged there in the realm of the Great Khan. He found duties collected at city boundaries as well as at provincial frontiers. These duties ranged from 3 1/3 to 10 per cent.

Paris Still Clings to City Tariff System

In medieval Europe, tariffs became a nightmare to struggling traders. Every petty prince and feudal lord set up his toll gates and customs houses and took a share of the merchant's wares. After the feudal kings took over the barons' privileges there was a movement away from the collection of duties in every small area; but progress was slow, and in some countries, such as France and Germany, provincial customs continued to be levied. Even cities took toll from entering goods. The local taxes of Paris are survivals of this custom.

It is almost universally recognized now that tariffs should be imposed by national units, and that they should apply to imports, not exports. The Constitution of the United States prohibits all export taxes, and the charging of import duties between the States. In early ages tariffs constituted a minor factor in national taxation. To-day they are the most universally important source of national income.

© *Photograph by Mastin Simpson*

TOWERS OF THE TOWN OF TARIFA, SPAIN, WHERE TARIFF GOT ITS NAME

The Spanish port near Gibraltar owes its name to a Moorish raider called Tarif, who was one of the first of Moroccan leaders to invade Spain. From duties levied in Tarifa on all merchandise in ships passing through the Strait of Gibraltar in Moslem days has come our word, tariff.

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Rich Assassin Rules A Million Subjects

ONE of the richest men of Europe is an Assassin.

Not only is he an Assassin but the leader of the Assassins—a million or more of them. But the Assassins with a capital A have nothing to do with assassination, at least not now.

The story of the Assassins, one of the strangest stories that geography has to tell, embraces three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe; it spreads over nearly ten centuries; it is punctuated with such names as Marco Polo, Edward I of England, Genghis Khan, Sultan Sanjar of Khorasan, the King of Jerusalem, Fatima, daughter of Mohammed, the Aga Khan, Mademoiselle Andrée Carron, and the $85,000 colt "Hurrie On."

The Old Man of the Mountain Who Spread Terror with the Dagger

To unravel this three-hundred-thousand-and-one Arabian Nights' romance one can begin with a French bathtub or travel back nearly 1,000 years to the unscalable fortress of Alamut, high in the Elbruz Mountains overlooking the Plain of Teheran in Persia.

Twenty-three years after William the Conqueror won the battle of Hastings, a Persian called Hasan Sabbah, by clever deceit, captured the fortress of Alamut. If he lived to-day he would be called "master mind," or even "anarchist"; as it was, Hasan became famous as the founder of the Assassins. As Grand Master of this secret society he schemed to free Persia from Arab domination by working through a Moslem sect called Ismailis.

Lacking followers in large numbers Hasan Sabbah turned for power to the dagger. He dedicated his sect to murder. From impregnable Alamut, "the Vulture's Nest," he ordered the killing of sultans, caliphs, kings and crusaders. Only into rulers were his daggers plunged. For two centuries Hasan Sabbah, the Old Man of the Mountains, and his successors, spread terror through the world.

A Paradise Designed for Evil Deeds

The Grand Master gave orders to Grand Priors serving in different districts: Kerman in Persia, Syria, and elsewhere. Each prior had a staff of *dais*, or initiates. A chosen few became *fidais*, or devotees—a desperate set of adventurers and racketeers! The fidais were a sort of foreign legion of death drawn from many nations and peoples, selected for endurance, for daring, and fanatical exaltation.

Marco Polo learned the astonishing secret of the Old Man of the Mountain's power over his fidais. In Alamut, this master criminal caused to be made a beautiful, secret garden filled with roses and other flowers, trees bearing peaches and plums, and vines with luscious grapes. Fountains tossed their spray into mirror pools bordered by gay pavilions. This exquisite garden he peopled with lovely women. In the arid mountains of Persia he created a paradise to serve his evil designs.

When trusted fidais candidates reached Alamut they were drugged and carried unconscious into the garden. Awaking, they found themselves surrounded by all the beauty and joys imaginable. But after a brief interval in paradise they were again drugged.

boundary mark. From that time until the World War the mountain marked the southern boundary of Russia. During the war the Russian line surged back and forth over Ararat, only the Persian border remaining fixed.

Famous Mountain of Salt Stands Near-by

The Treaty of Sevres, signed in 1920, which attempted to fix the status of Turkey and adjoining territories, created an Armenian Republic which included Ararat and pushed the Turkish boundary approximately 100 miles to the south. But the same year the Turks pushed the boundary back even beyond the point established in 1878, placing Greater Ararat entirely under Turkish sovereignty. This has been the status of the mountain since that time.

North of the Araxis River, a short distance from Ararat, is one of Asia's strange lesser mountains—Mt. Kulpi, a mountain of solid salt. This shares in the Noah legend; it is asserted that there Noah obtained the needed savor for his food. This salt mine has been longer worked, probably, than any other outside China. In abandoned workings obsidian hammers and other tools of the Stone Age have been found.

Bulletin No. 3, October 27, 1930.

© *Photograph by Donald Horsford*

A KURD WOMAN'S BEST CLOTHES

Many of the fiercest tribesmen of eastern Turkey are extremely poor. While this woman clings to the Moslem veil thousands of modern Turkish women have given up the old practice.

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St. Kilda Island Abandoned by Its Inhabitants

OCCUPIED for more than a thousand years, St. Kilda Island, off Scotland, has been abandoned.

Man usually wins his battles with Nature; he has lost in St. Kilda. Pioneers in Australia, in South America, in Rhodesia, are winning new ground for civilization. But after fighting the elements for centuries, a handful of humans has surrendered St. Kilda to the sea birds. Cold, pelting rain, wild gales out of the Atlantic, and crashing seas have finally defeated them. The English government is aiding the population to move to new homes in Scotland.

Two miles wide, 3 miles long, St. Kilda has supported as many as 100 souls, but the migrating tenants number only 35.

Bridegrooms Had To Perform Daring Acrobatic Feat

To locate St. Kilda one begins with Skye. The Island of Skye lies off the west coast of Scotland. The Hebrides lie west of Skye. St. Kilda lies west of the Hebrides, 40 miles out from the Hebridean island of Harris. Save for the islets of Soay, Boreray and Dun, it stands alone, facing the storms that scream across the North Atlantic, plunged for months in mists and fogs.

When St. Kildans were not catching or cleaning or eating fish they were catching or eating birds that catch fish. A fulmar petrel, fat with a liberal fish diet, has been as much a staple food on the Scotch island as potatoes in Ireland and Bolivia or rice in Tokyo and Charleston. The petrels were to be caught in the recesses of the cliff ramparts that St. Kilda raises against the Atlantic's waves on all sides except the one that enfolds a bay.

Daring and skill were required of men who scaled the cliffs 500 to 800 feet high to catch birds and gather eggs. Indeed, every St. Kildan had to prove himself a human fly before he was permitted to marry. A prospective bridegroom had to walk to the edge of the highest, sheerest cliff overhanging the boiling surf and there balance on one foot, throw the other foot out over the abyss, then stretch both arms out. If he lived he married. Boys began practicing for this ordeal soon after they learned to walk.

Why St. Kilda Is Called the Lost Island

Sometimes St. Kilda is called the lost island because its inhabitants were annually cut off from the world for eight, nine, even ten months. The bay, where the now deserted village stands, was too hazardous an anchorage for vessels during the winter. When ships finally called, in the late spring, the islanders were often found living close to the starvation line. Concern for the welfare of the handful of countrymen prompted the government to insist on the abandonment of St. Kilda and the removal of its scanty population to the Scotch mainland.

St. Kildans did not trust the radio station given them and to the last maintained their curious one-way postal system with the mainland during the months when they were "lost." Messages were intrusted to corked bottles cast into the sea with a prayer that the bottles would drift to the Hebrides and be picked up. Sometimes a tiny raft with a sealed message would be launched with the confidence that the sea was the best postman available.

St. Kilda was one of the last homes of the Great Auk, which is now extinct.

UMI

Grand Master Used Hashish To Drug Dagger Men

When a fidais recovered his senses he found himself in the secret chamber of the Grand Master. "It is true," the Master told the candidate, "you have been in paradise. Go slay this prince and when you return my angels will bear you again into paradise."

With the bright memory of his adventure filling his mind every fidais welcomed danger and courted death, because death would usher him into paradise forever.

The drug that the Grand Master used on his fidais was Indian hemp, *cannabis indica*, also known as hashish, and from the latter term has come the name which Europe fastened on the Ismailis, "Assassins."

Conrad of Montferrat, crusader, fell with an Assassin's dagger in his heart immediately after he was recognized King of Jerusalem; likewise did Raymond, Count of Tripoli, die. Prince Edward, later Edward I of England, was stabbed, but recovered. Caliphs and viziers were found murdered. Sultan Sanjar organized an army to wipe out Alamut. One morning when his army was halfway to the fortress he awoke to find a dagger pinning a message to the sand beside his head. "Go no farther," it warned. Sultan Sanjar turned around and went home.

The Aga Khan Revives Sect Dispersed by Genghis Khan

But not even the Assassins could withstand Genghis Khan's westward drive. His Mongol legions captured Alamut in 1256, burned Hasan Sabbah's library and destroyed his garden. The Ismailis dispersed to Africa, India, Syria, and Persia. For six centuries the remnant colonies struggled without a central leader.

Then about 1830 in Kerman Province, Persia, Hasan Ali Shah, a descendant of Imam Ismail, rose to such prominence that he was exiled. While fleeing to India through Afghanistan Hasan Ali Shah, or the Aga Khan, did some service for the English among the wild mountaineers and, upon reaching Bombay, was rewarded. Gradually His Highness the Aga Khan of Aga Hall, Bombay, became the recognized spiritual leader of Ismailis scattered throughout the Moslem world.

News stories from Paris bring the strange story of the Assassins down to date, for Aga Khan who recently married Andrée Carron, the French dressmaker and daughter of a hotel keeper, is none other than His Highness the Aga Khan III, Knight Grand Commander of the Indian Empire; Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India; Doctor of Laws, Cambridge; Brilliant Star of Zanzibar, First Class; nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize; racing stable owner extraordinary; and hereditary leader of the Ismailis.

Adherents Said To Buy Phials of Leader's Bath Water

The Aga Khan, king of the Assassins, numbers his subjects at more than a million, yet he has no territory. His residence is Bombay, but his home is Paris. When he paid $85,000 for the racing colt "Hurrie On" to add to his stables, some of that money came, perhaps, from the dusty little towns of Quadmus and Masyad in the mountains near Homs, Syria. Of their own free will the surviving Ismailis of Syria send annually one-fifth of their revenue to the Aga Khan, one of the richest men of Europe.

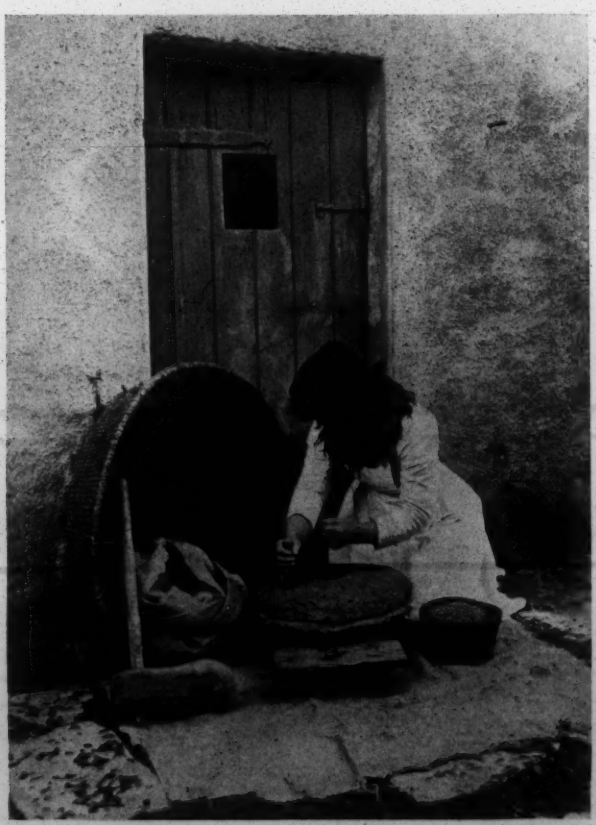
Regularly the Aga Khan visits his people and his journeys take him to Morocco, to Syria, to Zanzibar and East Africa, to Persia and the Punjab, to Sind and Bombay. The Ismailis of India are known as Khojas, a class of Mohammedans who, by their devotion to trade, have been distributed far and wide.

Ismailis throughout the world pay tribute to their spiritual and hereditary leader, it is said, by the purchase of small phials of water which are shipped from Paris, or now, perhaps from the chateau near Chambery in Savoy that the Aga Khan gave to his bride. The water is the Aga Khan's bath water, considered sacred by his people and potent in effecting cures.

The last member of this bird species was taken on the island in 1840. On Soay also existed, until recently, species of mountain sheep common to Europe in the Bronze Age.

Macleod of Macleod has owned the island and its neighbors for centuries, through successive generations.

Bulletin No. 5, October 27, 1930.



© *Photograph by Thomas Kent*

GRINDING GRAIN WITH THE QUERN IN A SCOTCH ISLAND

Natives of the storm-swept islands off Scotland cling to old-fashioned ways. This woman of the Orkneys drops grain through a hole in the center of a grindstone which she turns with an improvised handle. The grain is crushed between the upper and lower grindstones.